

The Spin



Colorado Safe Routes to School State Network

Volume 3, Issue 11

Happy Holidays!

Happy holidays from the Colorado Safe Routes to School State Network! We want to take this opportunity to say thank you for all that you do to increase opportunities for and interest in walking and biking throughout the state.

During this time of year, it can be difficult to encourage walking and biking because of the shortened daylight hours and seasonal weather. However, the National Center for Safe Routes to School offers some tips about being safe such as wearing reflective strips or clothing, carrying a flashlight and traveling on the proper side of the road. [» Read all of the tips online.](#)

Finally, as a wrap up to 2014, we are excited to share a recent [blog post from Bicycle Colorado](#), which answers the question "Does Safe Routes to School Really Work?" The answer, of course, is YES, it does, but we hope you will [read the post](#) and be encouraged by both the local and national evidence supporting Safe Routes to School.

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Stories from Schools

Walk to School Day Mini-Grant Winners Announced

The Colorado Safe Routes to School State Network is pleased to announce our 2014 Walk to School Day mini-grant winners. These schools were randomly selected from the 160 schools that registered and recorded their activities at www.walkbiketoschool.org. <Drum roll...> This year's winners are:

- **Coyote Hills Elementary School**,
Cherry Creek Schools
- **Jordahl Elementary School**, Fountain
Fort Carson District
- **Manitou Springs Middle School**,
Manitou Springs School District



Each of these schools will receive a \$250 mini-grant to be used to continue Safe Routes to School encouragement and education. Thanks to all of the schools that participated this year and congratulations to our winners!

National Crosswalk

Building a Culture of Health Through Active Transportation

The Safe Routes to School National Partnership recently released its [2014 State Network Report: Building a Culture of Health Through Active Transportation](#). Though the report focuses on the seven states of focus during this phase of the National Partnership grant cycle—California, Florida, Mississippi, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio and Tennessee—the lessons learned provide great insight for a variety of scenarios and challenges.

Training Wheels & Webinars

America Walks Webinar and Resources

America Walks, a nonprofit organization working at the national level to build a diverse and powerful coalition to advance and protect walking, has a number of resources available through the website. The first is a recent webinar, titled [The State of Walking Advocacy Organizations in the U.S.](#) America Walks has also published [four new case studies](#) on innovative approaches local leaders are taking to address the issue of walkability. Finally, the organization has partnered with Jay Walljasper, author and speaker, to offer access to his latest report, [Walking is Going Places](#).

Alliance for Biking & Walking Webinars

In 2014, the Alliance offered twenty calls and webinars specifically for biking and walking advocates and supporters. Topics ranged from policy to social media use to event suggestions and resources. Recaps of these webinars are available [on the Alliance website](#).

Pedaling Programs and Funding Feet

Leveraging Health Funding for Active Transportation Investments

This fall the CDC awarded nearly \$212 million to state, local, or tribal public health departments, and non-profit organizations or coalitions for projects that address prevention and wellness. The funding aims to reduce the prevalence of obesity and to reduce the rates

of death and disability due to diabetes, heart disease, and stroke. Active transportation has an important role to play as one of the solutions to create healthy communities.

In response, Advocacy Advance released its a report, “[Leveraging Health Funding for Active Transportation Investments](#),” and [held a webinar](#) to talk about the report. Both review the recent round of CDC awards in the area of prevention and provide examples of partnerships where transportation and health have worked together.

The purpose of the **Colorado Safe Routes to School State Network** is to facilitate two-way information sharing and connecting among communities and organizations in order to lift up what is working, identify new opportunities and galvanize support for policy and culture change that will increase the number of students walking and biking safely to and from school in every Colorado community.

[LiveWell Colorado](#) serves as the lead facilitator for the Network. Other members of the Network’s steering committee include: [Action for Healthy Kids](#), [Bicycle Colorado](#), [Colorado Department of Transportation \(CDOT\)](#), [Children’s Hospital Colorado](#), [Kaiser Permanente](#), [Safe Routes to School National Partnership](#), and subject matter experts.

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